
Ways & Means Committee

SB 6168

Brief Description: Reducing costs in state elementary and secondary education programs.

Sponsors: Senators Tom and Prentice.

Brief Summary of Bill

Makes certain K-12 education programs that are currently established in statute subject to available funding in the budget, including:

- Math and Science Instructional Coach Program;
- Extended Learning Opportunities Program for English Language Learners;
- Leadership Academy for School Administrators;
- Statewide coordination of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM);
- Civics Education Programs;
- The Center for the Improvement of Student Learning;
- Director of Skills Center at the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI);
- An Employee Award Program at OSPI;
- Incarcerated Family Contacts Program; and
- School Safety Planning Programs.

Hearing Date: 4/25/09

Staff: Ben Rarick (786-7349)

Background:

Math and Science Instructional Coach Program

The science and math coach program was initiated in the 2007-09 budget, and is designed to develop a building-based model of collaborative professional development. The funding

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

supports a network of math and science instructional coaches that provide training and instructional coaching to math and science teachers throughout the state. During the 2007-2008 school year, 73 math coaches and ESD math coordinators were trained. During the 2008-2009 school year, an estimated 100 math and science coaches will receive training. There were 46 schools in 23 districts that received services through this program in 2007-08. The annual appropriation for this program is about \$3.7 million.

Leadership Academy

The Leadership Academy is designed to provide leadership training for principals, superintendents and administrators. The program completed a planning year in 2008 and began its pilot year with the first cohort of administrators in the fall of 2008. The Washington Leadership Academy is an independent program with its own board. It is operated through a management contract with the Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA) and the Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP). The 2007-09 appropriation level for this program was \$1,300,000. The Gates Foundation also provides funding to this project, projected at \$700,000 per year for the 2009-11 biennium.

School Safety Planning Programs

The program provides grants to school districts for developing safety plans and drills. The funding currently supports two grant programs. One program supports efforts to develop and document the elements and costs associated with establishment of a comprehensive safe school plan. The other program provides grants to schools to enhance their ability to conduct safety drills based on the new requirement to conduct lockdown and shelter-in-place drills, in addition to evacuation drills. The maintenance-level appropriation for this program was \$800,000 per year.

Director of Skills Centers at OSPI

The role of the Skill Centers Director is to provide statewide leadership, support, and service to develop and implement skills center programs; and oversee feasibility, funding and construction of new skills centers; oversee the feasibility and development of new satellite and branch campuses. The maintenance-level appropriation for this position was \$196,000 per year.

Center for the Improvement of Student Learning

The purpose of the Center for the Improvement of Student Learning (CISL) is to collect and disperse research, educational tools and policy recommendations to promote best practices that help educators, parents and community leaders become involved in supporting their schools. Its services include: providing best practices research; provide information on the role and authority of school boards; provide training and consultation services; and, identify strategies to improve success rates of students in certain ethnic and racial groups. Much of the research and information offered by CISL is provided through its website. The maintenance level appropriation for CISL was \$333,000 per year.

Incarcerated Family Contacts

The incarcerated family contacts program is designed to support the needs of children of incarcerated parents. According to OSPI, research suggests that regular contact between an incarcerated parent and his or her child can decrease the chances of the parent re-offending, and decrease the chances of the child going to prison later in life. As part of this initiative, OSPI has reviewed policies and programs, worked to improve data systems, surveyed educators, provided training, and created a toolkit for school districts. OSPI has participated in an interagency Advisory Committee on this topic, for which a report was created. The maintenance-level appropriation for this program for 2009-11 was \$31,000 per year.

Civics Education

This program provides competitive grants to school districts, used primarily to give teachers time to plan, implement, and score civics classroom-based assessments. Additionally, OSPI has used the remaining funds to provide regional trainings on the civics classroom-based assessments to those teachers charged with implementing these assessments. The OSPI has also used some of the funding to provide two "Training of Trainers" workshops in Spokane and Highline. The maintenance level appropriation for this program was \$72,000 per year.

Extended Learning Opportunities (ELO)

Created in 2008, the ELO Program targets 11th and 12th grade students who are not on track to meet graduation requirements, as well as eighth grade students who are not on track to meet the state standard on the Washington Assessment of Student Learning. Assistance for eligible students includes a variety of instructional services, including small group instruction, instruction in English language or mathematics, inclusion in remediation programs, and services of reading specialists at the Educational Service Districts. The English Language Learner pilot projects are related to the ELO program, for which \$1,368,000 was included at maintenance-level in the 2009-11 budget.

Employee Award Program

Annually, the Superintendent of Public Instruction recognizes teachers, principals, administrators, classified staff, superintendents, and school boards from around the state for their leadership, contributions and commitment to education. Each year, 15 individuals statewide are recognized. The maintenance-level appropriation for this program for 2009-11 was \$84,000.

STEM

The Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) program position was created to provide statewide coordination for math, science, and technology and to help disseminate an interactive project-based high school and middle school technology curriculum with a criteria to support professional development for teachers and counselors. STEM education covers a wide range of career fields that are in high demand in today's marketplace. The maintenance-level appropriation for this program for 2009-11 was \$278,000.

Summary of Bill:

The bill makes certain K-12 education programs that are currently established in statute subject to available funding in the budget. Those programs include:

- The Math and Science Instructional Coach Program;
- The Extended Learning Opportunities Program for English Language Learners;
- The Leadership Academy for School Administrators;
- The Statewide coordination of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM);
- Civics Education Programs;
- The Center for the Improvement of Student Learning;
- Director of Skills Center at the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI);
- An Employee Award Program at OSPI;
- Incarcerated Family Contacts Program; and
- School Safety Planning Programs.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.